

by Virtue of a real or Pretended Authority in order to accuse or prosecute such person, and punish him for the same: And moreover this Sense is very Plain from the word Impeached which immediately precedes the Word Questioned, and between which two words there is a Relation in their Meaning; and I may safely affirm that neither Your House nor any Person else ever can find an Instance, where this word Questioning in any Law Expression was at any time used in any other sense: Besides if you consider some part of the Grievances which gave Rise to this Declaration in that Statute, you must agree with me that you have mistaken this Part of your Privilege; for a little Knowledge in History will Acquaint you, that frequently Members of Parliament were Summoned or obliged to Appear in other places besides the Courts of Law to answer for the Expressions in Parliament, and therefore to prevent the same, the word Place is inserted in that Statute; but by what Right you can Apply the words Questioning and Place to An Accidental Conversation, I am at a Loss to know

L. H. J.
Liber No. 46

p. 616

But really Gentlemen to speak freely, you seem to be afraid that the Express words of the Statute should be understood in their true Sense, which would by no means be sufficient for your purpose, Therefore you have disdained to restrain yourselves to the Claim of such Privileges as the Parliament of England thought sufficient, and have added more words of a Very large and extensive signification for y^r Declaration runs thus, " That the Liberty of Speech on every Debate " and matter in Assembly ought to be free, and that " no member ought to be questioned or impeached for any such Freedom of Speech in right of his Duty " in the House of Delegates by any person whatsoever or any manner or Place but by the House; so that you have endeavoured to extend your Privileges beyond those of the British Parliament by the addition of the Words, by any Person whatsoever or in any manner: If you should as I am apt to think you will be drove to say, that you have no such Design, it may be asked, why then did you put them in? there can be no other reason assigned in my opinion, but that you intended by those words to preclude or rather intimidate your Constituents from ever presuming to question Any behaviour of Yours in a Legislative way, not even by the most humble Enquiries; And it is really a Doubt with me, whether this Remonstrance of Yours was not calculated more for the sake of Your Electors than on my Account; Them, you might hope to teach a blind Obedience, and inspire with a new Reverence for your sacred Characters as for me, you could not but guess what regard I should pay to your extravagant Declarations. In short Gentlemen, take my advice as a Friend to the Rights of your House; what really are your rights insist on and preserve, so far my wishes shall always go along with you but do not, like the Vain Frog in the Fable, swell and puff up Privilege 'til it burst

T. Bladen

The House adjourns 'til 2 of the Clock